

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor switching element driving circuit comprises an overcurrent limiting circuit which instantaneously drops a voltage of a gate terminal of an IGBT when a main IGBT current becomes larger than a predetermined level  $i_1$ . An overcurrent protection circuit which first decreases the main IGBT current at a first inclination when the main IGBT current becomes larger than the other level  $i_2$  lower than the  $i_1$  and then reduces the main IGBT current at a steep second inclination when it becomes smaller than another level  $i_3$ .